

PACIFIC PACKET RADIO SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
December 1987

PPRS MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT.....The December meeting is our annual "hardware night" with demos of many operational packet stations. Everyone is invited to bring his/her gear and set it up at the meeting (don't forget extension cords, power strips, antennas, etc.). We will have TNC2 and TNC1 clones, TCP/IP, Atari PC and/or ST, Pacomm PC100 plug-in TNC with IBM XT, and more. In addition, this year we will also feature a software and EPROM swap. EPROMS will be available at cost (or bring your own blanks, MAYBE we can burn them there) with the following firmware: TNC2 KISS plus DEDware, TNC2 KISS plus TAPR 1.1.4, TNC1 DEDware, TNC1 KISS. Bring your blank formatted IBM disks (or purchase at the meeting) for copies of packet software: latest TCP/IP, Procomm 2.4.2, YAPP, PACOMM and Pak-et-Term (for Atari), PTP (for IBM), FINDER, SNOOP (great monitoring program from N6KL), STATS (NK6Ka network monitor and evaluator), WA7MBL and WORLI BBS. This will be a hardware and software extravaganza to end the year. Come to the meeting and get a chance to operate a new computer or TNC and pickup new programs to enhance your packet station. As usual, PPRS meets the first Tuesday of the month (Dec 1) at 7:30 pm at the Ampex cafeteria, 411 Broadway, Redwood City.

BBS SYSOP MEETING TO BE HELD DECEMBER 5 IN PALO ALTO.....The next SYSOP meeting will be at the PA Red Cross on Saturday, Dec 5, starting at 10 am. Judging by all the proposals and comments aired via NCNET, this promises to be a blockbuster of a session. WORLI, WB9LOZ and WD6CMU have proposed new topologies for the northern California network of interlinked BBS, and the boards have been jammed with counter-proposals, reminders of old promises (kept and unkept), and not a little bit of finger pointing. Some ops think that a new grand scheme of digis, NET/ROM nodes and BBS can be worked out at this meeting. Others call for a more limited agenda to organize the sysops and to formally establish a PRCC (Packet Radio Coordinating Council). Almost all of the comments have come from the BBS sysops themselves with very little input from the BBS users. If you have an opinion about BBS forwarding, user access, keyboard vs BBS channels, backbones, or other related topics, lets talk it up at the December 1st PPRS meeting. If we can reach some consensus, I will try to represent your interests at the sysop meeting. Keeping in mind the tremendous rate of growth and change in packet radio today, I am sure any decisions made now will only be relevant for a few months. The network must continue to evolve, and no plan will be appropriate forever. In my opinion, the inner workings of the network and BBS forwarding should be almost INVISIBLE to the average user. I would like to see the following items endorsed by the BBS sysops: 1. Reaffirmation of the "home BBS" concept (some guys still visit every BBS in sight); 2. Agreement that BBS user access and forwarding must be done on different channels; 3. No overlapping coverage by two BBS inputs on the same frequency (N6IIU-1 and NV6Z are a prime example of this); 4. No forwarding during "prime time" (to allow reasonable user access); 5. Reaffirmation of old agreements such as a no-BBS policy on 144.91, 145.01/03/05; 6. No keyboard QSOs on top of a BBS (go to a keyboard-only channel for that); 7. Anti-beacon policy (minimize beacons from users, BBS, NET/ROM nodes and digipeaters); 6. Establishment of a long range plan to coordinate network growth through the PRCC; 7. Adoption of an interim plan for BBS forwarding on 223.58 and 220.90 MHz. These are pretty tame goals compared to the creation of an entirely new network, but how much can be accomplished in one day?.....de AJ6T



# SIMPLIFIED GUIDE TO GETTING STARTED ON TCP/IP

by AJ6T

Here is an abbreviated guide to getting TCP/IP working on your TNC and computer. This brief introduction is not a replacement for the lengthy instructions that come with the KA9Q package, but it may help make the transition easier. These instructions apply to version 870829.0 (KE3Z hack:B1), but differences with newer issues should be small.

STEP 1. Get an IP address issued to your station from your local IP coordinator (Andy, N6JLJ, is the northern California IP address coordinator).

STEP 2. Obtain the latest version of the TCP/IP distribution disks. Disks will be available at the December PPRS meeting, or send \$2.00 and a disk mailer to NOCCZ, or download from the N3EUA telephone BBS.

STEP 3. Unarchive the files using PKXARC. Warning....expand each ARC file onto a separate disk or directory to avoid overwriting files with the same name. PKXARC will generate source code files, executable files (NET.EXE and BM.EXE), EPROM hex files and documentation files.

STEP 4. Read as much of the documentation as you can digest.

STEP 5. Convert your TNC to KISS operation. Most TNCs require a new EPROM. Some AEA and Kantronics TNCs already have the KISS code in their firmware. Burn your own EPROM or obtain a copy from a friend. Various types of EPROMS will be available at the December PPRS meeting. TNC2 KISS comes in two basic flavors: dedicated firmware (runs KISS only) or "downloadable" firmware which runs both straight AX25 and KISS (the KISS code is downloaded from your computer into the TNCs RAM, or type H to run vanilla AX25).

STEP 6. Prepare your IBM PC hard or floppy disk by creating an appropriate directory structure, and copying several files into the correct places. Start by making these new directories in the default drive: \SPOOL\MAIL and \SPOOL\MQUEUE. Copy the file SEQUENCE.SEQ to the \SPOOL\MQUEUE directory. Copy the TCP/IP program itself, NET.EXE, into the root directory of the default drive. Copy the mailer program, BM.EXE, onto the default drive. Copy BM.RC, HOSTS.NET, AUTOEXEC.NET AND FTPUSERS to the root directory. Then customize these files for your own use. BM.RC is the mailer setup file in which you specify your host and user names (I use host aj6t.norcal.ampr.net and user walt). HOSTS.NET is where you specify all the IP addresses and host names of the stations you want to reach via TCP/IP (AI8A and N6JLJ have current lists of active stations in northern California). AUTOEXEC.NET is a special setup file for the KISS TNC in which you specify your callsign (mycall aj6t-0), which COM port is connected to the TNC (attach asy 0x2f8 3 ax25 ax0 4096 256 1200), which stations require digipeaters to reach them (arp add k6rtv ax25 k6rtv wa6ocz-2), the maximum length of your packets (mss 216), the name of your host (hostname aj6t.norcal.ampr.net), your IP address (ipaddr [44.4.0.99]), where to save your log (log \spool\net.log), which services to run (start telnet, start ftp), and several other parameters. The FTPUSERS file establishes who may log on via FTP, what password is required, and which subdirectories may be accessed (careful-you don't want to let everybody see your DIARY subdirectory). For example, anonymous \* \ 3 is the setup for anyone to log on with name anonymous, any password (typically your call is used), full subdirectory access and read/create (but not overwrite) privileges.

STEP 7. Finally, start the TCP/IP program by typing NET at the DOS prompt. Once inside the program, the command line prompt will be "net>" and you are ready to have a keyboard-to-keyboard QSO (telnet w6xyz), or initiate a file transfer session (ftp w6xyz). Exit from NET.EXE and run BM to read and create mail which will be forwarded automatically from your station to the target callsign. Have fun....see you on 144.91 MHz.



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Outgoing 1987 PPRS officers:

AJ6T-President

N6KL-Vice President

WB6ASR-Secretary

WA6FSP-Treasurer

WB6RAL-Frequency Coordinator

PPRS and 1988.....Nominations for next year's PPRS Board of Directors have been open for several months, but there has been no response from the membership. No one has stepped forward to volunteer as president, and my jawboning and arm twisting has been fruitless also. On the bright side, Bill, WA6FSP, has agreed to stay on as PPRS treasurer. After some heavy coaxing, Dave, N6KL, has agreed to remain as vice president and meeting speaker coordinator. We still need a president to run the meetings and be the focal point for PPRS activity. We desperately need a newsletter editor(s). If you are willing to support the local packet user community in either of these capacities, please step forward at the December PPRS meeting. Being president for the past two years has been fun (mostly!), but it is time for me to move on to other activities. I will arrange for continued access to the Ampex cafeteria for PPRS meetings. Let's not let the PPRS devolve into an aimless users group.....sk de AJ6T

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